

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

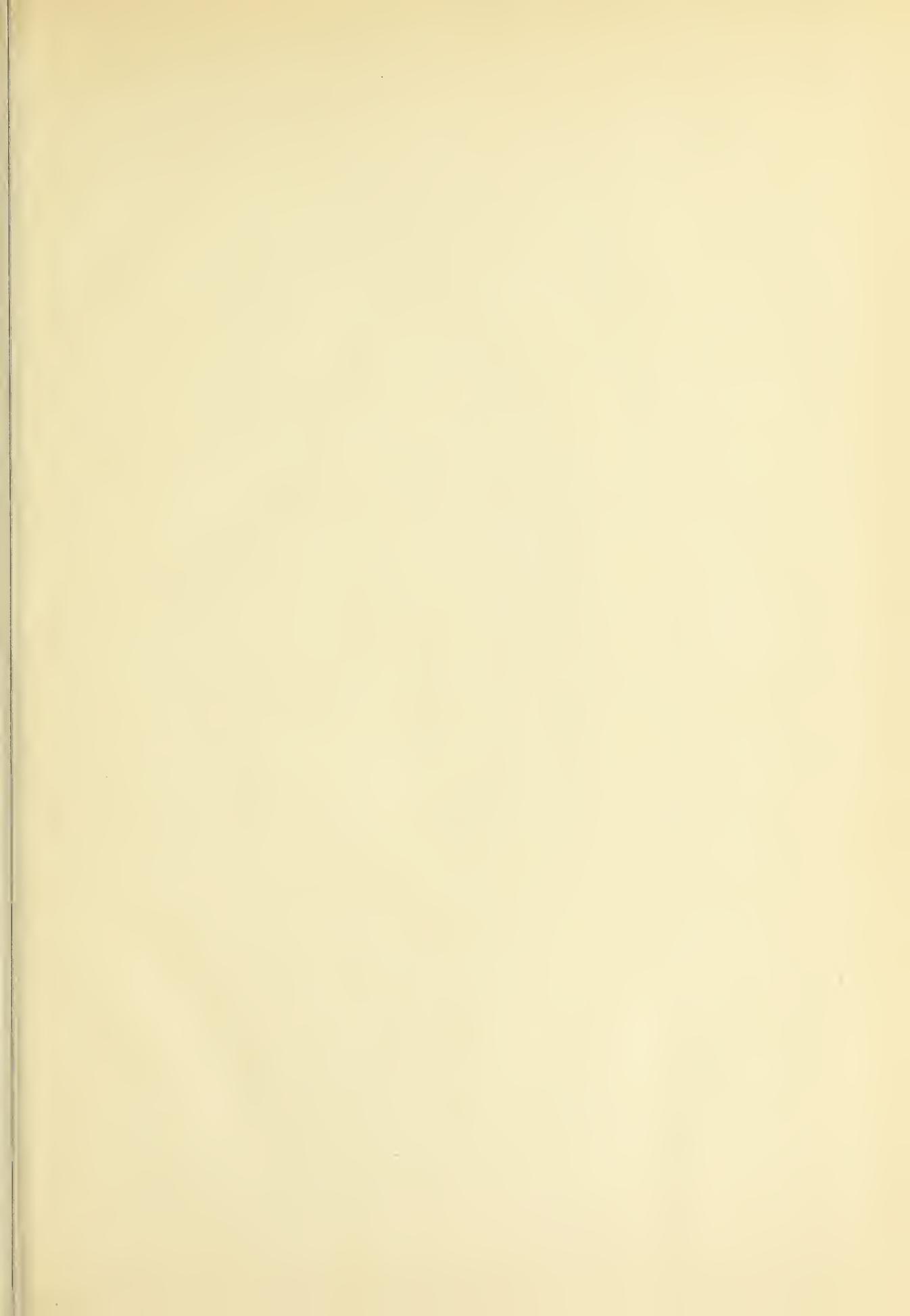
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIBRARY



Reserve
BOOK NUMBER 1.9
Ec752F
TFS 6-24
1937-1938
531959









JUN 24 1937 ★

B. D. of Agriculture

June 23, 1937

TFS-6

THE FRUIT SITUATION

531959

This is the first issue of The Fruit Situation, which hereafter will be issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics about the 22nd of each month. The Vegetable Situation will be issued about the 27th of each month. These two new monthly reports replace The Fruit and Vegetable Situation, which has been discontinued. This change is in response to demands from vegetable growers for separate reports for these commodities.

Summary

The outlook for deciduous fruits during the 1937 season is for relatively abundant supplies with prices in general somewhat lower than those of 1936, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. On the other hand, the supply of citrus fruits during the summer and early fall will be small, the Bureau says, and prices are expected to be relatively high.

The condition of the 1937 apple crop is above average in all regions except the far western group of States where it is slightly below average. If a large crop materializes, apple prices this year may be expected to average considerably below the relatively high prices of last season.

It is estimated that the total peach crop will be almost a fifth larger than that of last year, but production in the Southern States is very small. Consequently, prices of early peaches are expected to be comparatively high, but prices probably will average less than a year earlier. A rather large pear crop is in prospect this season.

The June 1 condition of the new crop of oranges (from bloom of 1937) is reported to be somewhat below average in California, and about average in Florida. Texas orange condition is below that of last year but well above that of most recent years. With the exception of Arizona, the June 1

condition of the new crop of grapefruit is only fair and is much below the condition reported on June 1, 1936. The June 1 condition of the new crop of California lemons is much below average.

The 1937 crop of strawberries in the late States is estimated to be somewhat larger than the crop of last year and nearly 42 percent greater than average.

APPLES

The condition of the 1937 apple crop as reported on June 1 is above average in all regions except the far western group of States, where it is about 1 point below average. For the United States as a whole, June 1 condition was 76.6 percent of normal this year, compared with 46.7 percent on June 1, 1936, and with the 1923-32 average of 67.8 percent. It is too early to forecast production of apples but present indications point to a crop somewhat larger than the 1928-32 average of about 165 million bushels, and larger than any individual crop since the exceptionally large production of 1931.

Should such a large crop materialize, prices of apples this year may be expected to average considerably below the relatively high prices of last season, although continuance of the improvement in consumer purchasing power over 1936 would partially offset the price-depressing influence of the larger supplies.

Condition good in all areas

Condition of apples on June 1 was uniformly high in the North Atlantic and New England States. In the North Central States condition was near or above average in all States except Minnesota and South Dakota. Along the South Atlantic Coast prospects are unusually good in most areas. In the South Central States there was some damage from spring frosts, but prospects ranged from fair to good. Prospects in the Far Western States are below average except in Idaho, New Mexico, and California, but for the group as a whole, condition is only slightly below the 10-year average. The bloom in Washington and Oregon was satisfactory, but cold rainy weather at blossom time prevented proper pollination and prospects in these States are slightly below average.

PEACHES

A very small crop of peaches is expected in the Southern States which market their crops principally during June and July, but the California crop is expected to be about the same as that of last year and only slightly below average. Production in the States which harvest during the late summer and fall is indicated to be much greater than usual, and it is estimated that the total peach crop will be almost a fifth larger than that of last year and only slightly below average.

Early shipments of Georgia peaches sold at relatively high prices, and it is expected that prices of peaches from the Southern States will average higher than they have during any year since 1930. It is probable, however, that prices of the late crop peaches will average less than the relatively high prices of last year.

In the 10 Southern States, the crop now appears to be somewhat larger than was forecast on May 1. Decreases from the May 1 forecast in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana were more than offset by increases in North Carolina, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The June 1 forecast of 10-1/2 million bushels in these States, however, is 28 percent less than the 1928-32 average production. Georgia has a crop of only 38 percent of average, and production in South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi is indicated to be well below the average. North Carolina and Texas have nearly average prospects and in Arkansas and Oklahoma unusually large crops are indicated.

Prospective production in the North Atlantic group of States is considerably above the 1928-32 average, with exceptionally good prospects reported in Pennsylvania. The outlook is for very good crops in the Central States, with indicated production in Michigan and Missouri well above average.

In the far West, production in Colorado is expected to be slightly greater than that of 1936 and considerably above the 1928-32 average. Indicated production in California of both clingstone and freestone varieties is slightly larger than in 1936, but is somewhat below average. Washington has only a fair crop and production in Idaho and Utah is indicated to be almost a failure because of winter damage.

Peaches: Production, average 1931-35, annual 1936 and 1937

Item	:	Average	:	1936	:	Forecast
	:	1928-32	:		:	1937
	:	1,000		1,000		1,000
	:	bushels		bushels		bushels
	:					
10 Southern States	: 1/	14,580		13,711		10,489
California, all	: 1/	23,844		21,502		21,957
Clingstone	: 1/	15,610		14,043		14,320
Freestone	: 1/	8,234		7,459		7,637
All other States	: 1/	18,874		12,437		23,656
Total	: 1/	57,298		47,650		56,102
	:					

1/ Includes some quantities not harvested on account of market conditions.

Peaches, No. 1, all varieties: Average l.c.l. price at New York and Chicago wholesale markets, by weeks 1936 and 1937

Week ended	Sixes		Bushels	
	New York		New York	Chicago
	Dollars	Dollars		Dollars
1936				
May 23	5.06	4.53		---
30	3.92	4.19		3.33
June 6	3.22	3.62		<u>1/</u> 4.00
13	2.23	2.72		2.67
20	2.22	2.24		2.39
27	2.42	2.37		2.52
July 4	2.71	2.50		2.01
11	3.62	2.60		3.04
18	3.35	3.40		4.00
25	2.10	2.37		2.58
Aug. 1	2.10	2.05		2.36
8	2.07	2.30		2.54
15	2.08	2.12		2.54
22	1.95	1.98		2.41
29	1.94	2.04		2.22
Sept. 5	1.96	2.31		2.11
12	2.12	2.10		1.80
19	2.44	2.38		1.94
26	3.02	2.67		1.70
Oct. 3	---	2.55		2.08
10	---	2.98		2.12
1937				
May 29	---	5.75		<u>1/</u> 4.50
June 5	2.92	4.65		3.90

1/ Average for 1 day.

PEARS

A relatively large crop of pears is in prospect this season. Indications on June 1 were for a production of more than 31 million bushels, which is 17 percent larger than the 1936 crop and 29 percent above the 1928-32 average. It is likely that prices of pears this year will average slightly less than those of last season, although part of the price-depressing influence of the more abundant supplies may be offset by a higher level of consumer purchasing power this year as compared with last.

In the North Atlantic and North Central States pears developed under favorable conditions during May and prospects are for good to excellent crops in most of these States. In the South Atlantic States indications point to good pear crops except in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, where there was considerable damage by spring frosts. The South Central States show a light set of fruit as a result of spring frosts. In the Rocky Mountain States prospective production is below average generally. In the Pacific Northwest, indications are for an unusually large crop despite cool, wet weather at blossom time. Prospective production in California is above average, with Bartletts showing up somewhat better than fall or winter varieties.

Pears: Production, average 1928-32, annual 1936 and 1937

Region	: Average : 1928-32	: 1936	: Forecast : 1937
	: 1,000 : <u>bushels</u>	: 1,000 : <u>bushels</u>	: 1,000 : <u>bushels</u>
Eastern States	: 3,229	: 3,422	: 4,133
Central States	: 4,246	: 4,128	: 6,612
Rocky Mountain States. :	: 549	: 454	: 311
Pacific Coast	:		
States, all	: 16,310	: 18,952	: 20,428
Washington	: 1/ 3,921	: 5,400	: 6,424
Oregon	: 1/ 2,855	: 3,760	: 4,182
California	: 1/ 9,534	: 9,792	: 9,822
Total	: 1/ 24,334	: 26,956	: 31,484
	:		

1/ Includes some quantities not harvested on account of market conditions.

ORANGES

Review of Current Season: On January 1, 1937, the crops in all producing areas were indicated to be above average and the total crop was estimated at 61 million boxes, compared with 52 million for 1935-36 and the 1928-32 average of 49 million boxes. Freeze damage during January reduced the California crop materially and brought the total orange crop down to only slightly greater than average. As a result of the large crop in prospect, prices were very low during the early part of the season, but after the freeze damage occurred, prices of California Navelns made a rapid rise to a level above normal. Florida orange prices also increased, but not so rapidly, and were above average during February and March.

The California Navel orange season ended a little earlier than usual this year, with prices at extremely high levels. Shipments of Florida oranges have been much heavier than usual during the last month and a half, and prices of Florida oranges have declined steadily instead of making the usual seasonal rise. The California Valencia season was begun with prices of this variety at relatively high levels. Production of California Valencias this season is now estimated at 14.7 million boxes, compared with 13.5 million boxes for 1935-36, and the 1931-35 average production of 20 million boxes. The usual seasonal movement of orange prices is upward during the summer and early fall, and it is expected that the very small supply of oranges available this year will result in a greater-than-usual seasonal rise in prices during the remainder of the current marketing season.

The June 1 condition of the new crop of oranges (from bloom of 1937) is reported to be somewhat below average in California, and about average in Florida. Texas orange condition is below that of last year, but well above that of most recent years. A good bloom was reported in all States, but blooming in California was late and there is some uncertainty as to whether a good crop will be set. Other States have a good set of fruit and the "spring drop" does not appear to be unusually heavy.

GRAPEFRUIT

Review of Current Season: On January 1, 1937, the largest grapefruit crop on record was indicated for Florida and Texas. The total crop was estimated then at more than 23 million boxes, compared with the 1931-35 average of only 16 million boxes, and prices were at very low levels. Later estimates indicated an even larger crop. During the period from November through February unusually large quantities of grapefruit were marketed at low prices. The wholesale price at New York remained near \$2 per box. Unusually large quantities of the fruit were also canned, and in early March it appeared that the fresh supply available for market during the remainder of the season was not greatly above average. Consequently, prices began to improve, and since that time have made more than the usual seasonal increase.

Florida grapefruit prices made further gains during the last month, and the season will probably end with prices at about normal levels.

With the exception of Arizona, the June 1 condition of the new crop of grapefruit (from bloom of 1937) is only fair and is much below the condition reported on June 1, 1936. The bloom and set of fruit in Florida were reported as light. Texas grapefruit trees bloomed profusely, but the "May drop" was heavy and the final set of fruit is uncertain. In California the bloom was satisfactory but late, and it is still too early to determine the set. The condition in Arizona is good.

LEMONS

Review of Current Season: On January 1, 1937, the California lemon crop was estimated at more than 8 million boxes which was larger than the crop of the preceding year or the 1931-35 average. Freezes during January, however, reduced the crop to only 5,700,000 boxes, the smallest since 1924, and did some damage to trees. Since the reduction in supply occurred, prices of lemons have remained at relatively high levels.

Prices of California lemons continue high and it is expected that advances during the remainder of the season will be greater than usual.

The June 1 condition of the new crop of lemons (from bloom of 1937) is much below average, being only 61 percent of normal compared with the 1923-32 average of 82 percent of normal. This relatively poor condition is traceable to the damage suffered by lemon trees from winter freezes.

Citrus fruits: Weighted average price per box, New York and Chicago, specified periods

Market and crop	Average week ended			Average	
	June 6	May 8	June 5	May	May
	1936	1937	1937	1936	1937
	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.	Dolls.
<u>New York City</u>	:				
Oranges	:				
California Valencias	:	3.83	4.44	4.45	3.99
Florida	:	3.76	3.70	3.34	3.60
Grapefruit - Florida	:	3.00	2.77	2.95	3.01
Lemons - California	:	5.79	6.15	6.12	6.14
Chicago	:				
Oranges	:				
California Valencias	:	3.59	4.49	4.71	3.43
Florida	:	3.69	3.83	3.36	3.73
Grapefruit - Florida	:	3.28	2.99	2.80	2.95
Lemons - California	:	5.65	5.49	6.49	6.00

STRAWBERRIES

Prices of strawberries declined seasonally during the last month as shipments increased, but thus far have averaged slightly higher than those of a year ago. It is likely, however, that prices of strawberries from the late States will average slightly lower than those of last season.

Shipments have been rather heavy during recent weeks, owing to greater than usual overlapping of marketings from the second early and intermediate States. Conditions improved during May in several of these States, but estimated production of strawberries in the two regions this year, while somewhat greater than a year earlier, is still considerably below average.

During the remainder of the marketing season, strawberry supplies will come largely from the late States. The 1937 crop in this group of States is estimated to be somewhat larger than the crop of last year and nearly 42 percent above the 1931-35 average. Some increase occurred in all States except Michigan, and in almost every case the larger production is due to both increased acreage and higher yields per acre.

Strawberries: Acreage and production, average 1931-35, annual 1936 and 1937

Group and State	Acreage			Production			Indicated for 1937 as percentage of average of 1937
	5-year average 1931-35		1936	5-year average 1931-35	1936	1937 as percentage of average	
	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	crates	crates	crates	
Florida	8,780	8,900	9,200	634	445	644	101.6
Early excl. Fla..	27,806	20,400	23,150	1,838	1,605	1,843	100.3
Second Early	54,118	45,960	41,270	3,191	2,205	2,640	82.7
Intermediate	42,128	43,160	37,080	2,694	1,951	2,266	84.1
Late States- total:	48,224	53,100	54,400	3,042	3,804	4,312	141.7
Ind.	2,660	2,700	2,600	200	135	182	91.0
Iowa	1,640	600	600	100	30	39	29.0
Mich. ,.....	10,240	11,000	10,500	560	770	735	131.2
N. Y.	3,560	3,600	3,500	286	252	262	91.6
Ohio	4,060	4,000	4,100	245	240	266	108.6
Oreg.	11,160	13,600	14,000	688	1,142	1,190	173.0
Pa.	3,700	4,400	4,800	224	286	504	225.0
Utah	1,100	1,100	1,400	62	55	98	158.1
Wash.	8,340	10,000	10,500	587	800	892	152.0
Wis.	1,764	2,100	2,400	90	94	144	160.0
Total all States	181,056	171,520	165,100	11,399	10,010	11,705	102.7

Strawberries, all varieties: Weekly average price per quart, New York and Chicago, specified weeks, in 1936 and 1937

Market and year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st
	week	week	week	week	week
	May	May	May	May	June
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
New York City:					
1937	20	15	14	11	10
1936	12	13	12	11	13
Chicago:					
1937	20	16	18	19	16
1936	18	14	14	16	13